

Saml. May Jr.  
Oct. 9. 1845

Leicester, Thursday Oct. 9. 1845.

My very dear Sir,

I had the pleasure - it was a pleasure - of attending the services at Brooklyn, Ct. last week, at the Re-dedication, &c. I intended to have written you immediately after getting home, & given you some account of the doings there; but have been unable to write before now. My wife & Joseph have not been well - the former, not for some time. They are both better now.

It came into my head rather suddenly to go to Brooklyn, finding that nothing very pressing demanded my stay at home. So about <sup>P.M.</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> part 2 of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>, I ~~started~~ left home - rode to Worcester - there met F. T. Gray & his wife on the way to B; - <sup>we</sup> took the Norwich Cars, and were at Danielsonville (3 mi. you know from B.) at about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock. Here we found Dr. Whitcomb waiting. J. F. Clarke came in the Steamboat train, about an hour later. On getting to B., we found there Rev. W. G. Babcock of Providence (Minister at Lape), a very interesting young man. Dr. W. insisted on my staying at his house, though Messrs. Clarke & Babcock were also their guests, Mr. & Mrs. Snow board there, and Mr. & Mrs. Spalding live with them. We three strangers were most comfortably lodged, and I was not displeased to find myself in the very same chamber which I occupied during my 8 months' residence in Brooklyn - somewhat improved in appearance perhaps, but essentially



the same pleasant old room, for which I found I really felt an affection, and in which I passed a great many pleasant hours. But this is talking about myself, not about the Brooklyn people and their prosperity. - You see the "Christian World," I am quite sure. <sup>There</sup> ~~you~~ will probably be, in this week's paper, an account of the services, &c. of the dedication, and at two other meetings, which I wrote. I will not repeat what is there said. My abstract of J. F. C.'s sermon does him no justice. It was plain, direct, earnest, truthful - and well-received. We were disappointed in having a smart rain thro' the forenoon, and up to the time of meeting, so that the Dedication Services were but thinly attended. <sup>At</sup> the other meetings, the house was entirely filled - the weather having become very pleasant.

I am sure you will be interested to know how they have altered the old Meetinghouse where you preached so long, and first unfolded views dear to your soul, and which time only makes dearest. My interest in that house, (where I first stood in a pulpit, where I preached my <sup>3</sup> first sermons,) is not small; how much more must yours be. I believe they owe much, <sup>for</sup> ~~at~~ the spirit & resolution with which they took up the work of alteration and renovation, to G. G. Channing. I am glad he does some good, amidst a good deal that is questionable and ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> that I regard as bad. Give him, however, all credit that is his due. He stirred them up. They began to consider what they should do, with an earnest desire to do something.

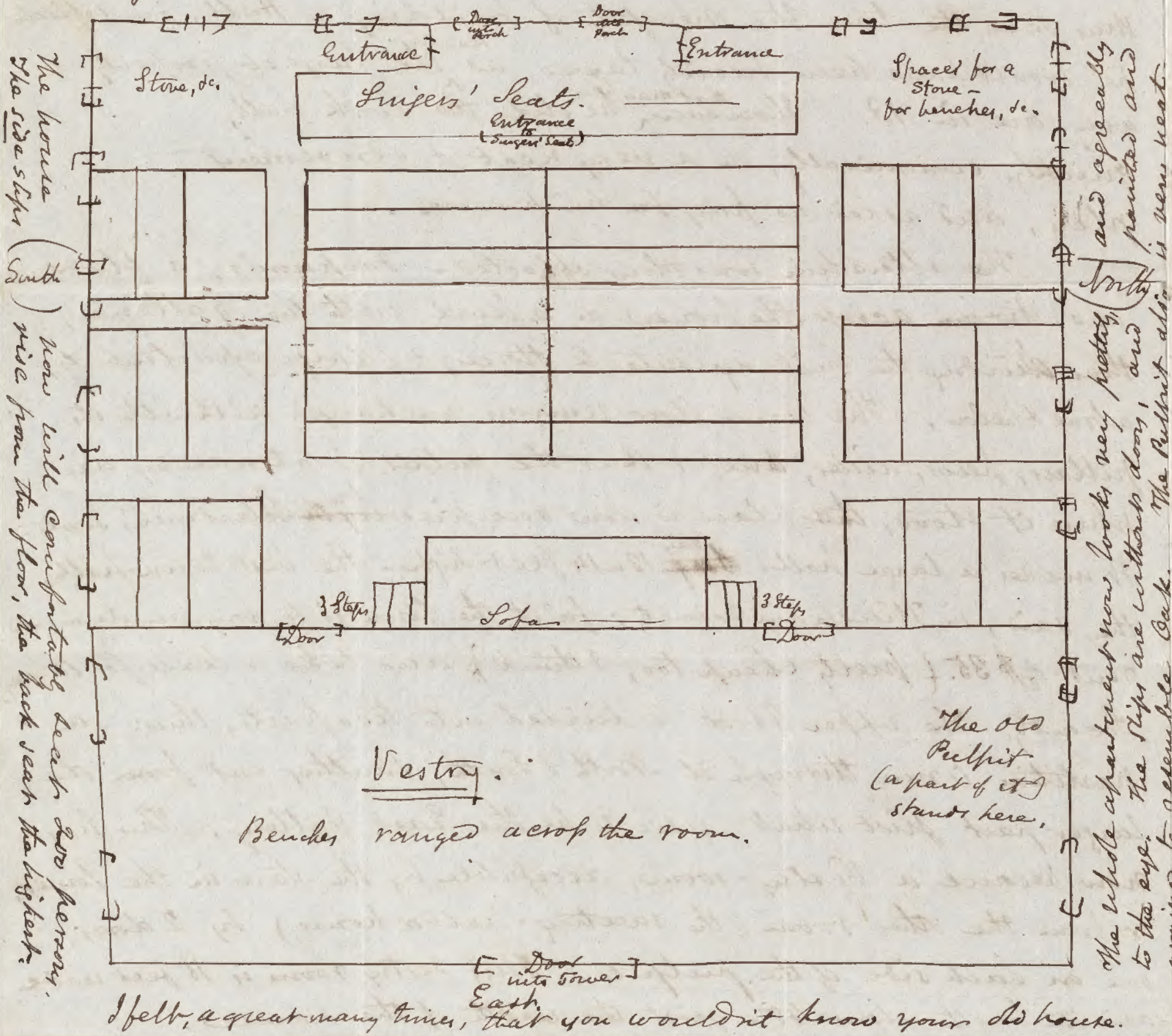


They told me that the whole, however, would have fallen through, probably, had not F. V. Gray promised them a donation of One hundred dollars. This turned the scales, and they went to work without delay. They procured George Martin to superintend the work, and he did so faithfully, using the strictest economy, and at the end declined, I was told, to receive any compensation for his services. His motive, John Gray says, was to get, at a cheap rate, a town-hall, and thus save the town the necessity of building a Hall, for which he would have been heavily taxed, as <sup>having</sup> the largest property of any one in B. However, <sup>that may be</sup> he did the work well, quickly, economically, on a very neat & convenient plan, and asked no pay for his services.

The alteration was thus effected - Inprimis, a floor was thrown across the house on a level with the galleries, thus dividing the building into 2 stories, & 2 large apartments, above & below. The lower floor remains unchanged with all its pillars, pews, aisle, except that the pulpit is taken away and, where it stood, ~~the~~ place is now occupied <sup>by</sup> ~~to~~ the Selectmen's seats. It makes a large hall. ~~It is~~ <sup>say</sup> 13 or 14 feet high - the best town-hall, they said, in Windham County; for it, the town is to pay an annual rent of \$35. (pretty cheap too, I think) and take a lease for 10 years. Secondly, The upper floor is divided into two parts, thus: a partition is run through it North & South, shutting out from the larger part just what used to be the East Gallery. This has now become a Vestry-room, accessible by the stairs in the tower, or from the other rooms (the meeting-hall or house) by 2 doors, one on each side of the pulpit. This vestry room is 15 feet wide, and the length about 45 - just the width of the house.



The remainder of the upper story forms <sup>present</sup> the meeting apartment measuring 45 feet by 42. There are no galleries of course. The pulpit is at the East end - the Surges' seats, elevated somewhat from the floor, at the West end. The entrance is by a circular stair-case in the West porch, doors opening under the Surges' seats, and giving 2 entrances ~~from~~ into the room. That you may understand this a little better, I annex a plan; it <sup>will be</sup> unnecessary to say that I am no draughtsman. - Mem. Proportions are not good, to begin with.



I felt, a great many times, that you wouldn't know your old house.



I wish you could have been at the Dedication. It was better than nothing to have a man there named May. Frequent allusions were made to you. Several hoped I would write and tell you about it, and they, who knew I meant to write, wished to be remembered. Dr. Whitcomb & his wife, particularly; Mr. & Mrs. John Gray, Mrs. Kies & her daughter, & others. Mr. G. White of Canterbury wished me to give his respects to you, and thank you for a copy of his your 1<sup>st</sup> August address.

The afternoon was occupied with the Sunday School. The children appeared well. Over 50, <sup>children,</sup> I should say, were present. Lucy Scarborough is a leading spirit among them. (It seems, by the way, that her father & bro. Theodore have come out from the Society, and all Churches.) Excellent addresses were made to the children by J. F. Clarke & W. G. Babcock. F. T. G., I thought, did not speak as well as usual, <sup>but the children were pleased,</sup> Mr. White of Canterbury & myself, also spoke. In the evening, there was a Conference Meeting. The speakers are named in the "World". The Society seemed to be inspired. They like Mr. Snow quite well - consider him an earnest, pain-taking man, and much interested in their welfare. He visits them a good deal, they say.

The outside of the Meetinghouse is not changed, save as a good coat of paint changes it. I was much pleased to see there was no other alteration. - F. T. Gray <sup>also</sup> made the Society a present of a pulpit bible, splendidly bound. He probably paid \$20 or \$25 for it.

I did wish to say a few words to you about the Protest, but must take another opportunity. Shall you go to New York? i.e. to the Convention? Please let me know.

With love to Cornin L. & your children

I am, most truly & affectionately yours,  
Samuel May, Jun





Rev. Samuel J. May.  
Syracuse.  
(New York.)

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Oct 9/845  
J May Jr

